

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: COMMENTS ON WEST VISIT

REF: ISLAMABAD 5661

1. SUMMARY. WEST VISIT WAS WELCOME STIMULUS TO MISSION AND GOP THINKING ABOUT OPIUM PRODUCTION PROBLEM. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP, HOWEVER, ACCENTUATED IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-LEVEL GOP POLITICAL DECISION ON ERADICATION TIME-TABLE. REQUEST WASHINGTON VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF JOINT US-PAK PRODUCTION TEAM, IF GOP REACHES SATISFACTORY DECISION ON TIMETABLE. END SUMMARY

2. WE FOUND DR. WEST'S PRESENTATION OF TURKISH EXPERIENCE VERY STIMULATING TO OUR THINKING ABOUT ATTACKING PRODUCTION PROBLEM. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE TO PLACE BEFORE GOP AND NWFP OFFICIALS, DESPITE UNRESPONSIVENESS OF SOME OF THEM TO IDEA OF EARLY PRODUCTION BAN, DETAILS OF TURKISH PROGRAM AND OBSTACLES WHICH GOT OVERCAME TO MAKE PRODUCTION BAN APPARENT SUCCESS. VISIT ALSO SHED LIGHT ON DIFFICULTIES ORAKZAI FACES IN ATTEMPTING TO RALLY TO HIS CAUSE NWFP OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT.

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3. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP DURING WEST VISIT FURTHER UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY GOP DECISION AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL ON ERADICATION TIMETABLE. GOP HAS REGRETTABLY NOT MOVED TOWARD USG POSITION. (IN FACT ORAKZAI'S IDEA OF THREE-YEAR PHASE-OUT OF PRODUCTION (ISLAMABAD 4881) IS CONSIDERABLY MORE FORWARD-LOOKING THAN POSITION OF COMMITTEE (CRELIPGA) WHICH HAS BEEN ASKED TO PLAN POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM.) POSITION OF QAMARUL ISLAMA AND OTHER BUREAUCRATS CONCERNED WITH OPIUM PRODUCTION IS THAT PRODUCTION AREA HAS TO BE SURVEYED AND PROJECTS PLANNED BEFORE TIMETABLE DECISION CAN BE MADE. SINCE, HOWEVER, THERE CONTINUES TO BE LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ANY ACTIVE GOP PLANNING ON PRODUCTION, PROSPECTS THAT EARLY CONSENSUS ON TIMETABLE FOR ERADICATION WILL EMERGE FROM BUREAUCRACY ARE VERY DIM. IN OUR VIEW, ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP REMAINS DECISION AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL ON MOST RAPID ERADICATION TIMETABLE THAT IS FEASIBLE POLITICALLY. DETAILED PLANNING WILL NOT PRECEDE THAT DECISION BUT WILL FOLLOW OUT OF IT.

4. WRAP-UP NARCOTICS TASK FORCE MEETING JULY 10 ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION BY WEST THAT, ASSUMING GOP CAN REACH DECISION ON TIMETABLE, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SENDING SMALL US PRODUCTION SURVEY TEAM TO PAKISTAN, WHICH WOULD BE JOINED BY APPROPRIATE MISSION PERSONNEL IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD AND WOULD WORK WITH COUNTERPART PAK GROUP POSSESSING KNOWLEDGE OF POPPY AREAS. US GROUP SHOULD INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST, SOIL AND WATER SPECIALIST, AGRONOMIST, AND PERHAPS LIVESTOCK EXPERT, AND SHOULD HAVE ONE MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN TURKEY PROGRAM. OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO COME UP WITH JOINT REPORT CONTAINING COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC UPLIFT PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH POPPY ERADICATION. PRECONDITIONS FOR DISPATCH OF TEAM SHOULD BE: (A) SELECTION OF ACCEPTABLE GROUP OF COUNTERPARTS AND, (B) UNDERTAKING BY GOP TO ASSEMBLE ADEQUATE DATA IN ADVANCE OF TEAM ARRIVAL. WEST OFFERED TO ASSIST IN DRAWING UP OUTLINE OF DATA REQUIRED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PAKS. WEST PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR HANDLEY ON HIS RETURN.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED. WE ARE MUCH IMPRESSED WITH WEST'S ACCOUNT OF EFFECT JOINT US-TURKISH TEAM HAD IN GALVANIZING GOT INTO ACTIVE PLANNING ON PRODUCTION SIDE. WE BELIEVE JOINT US-PAK TEAM ALONG SAME LINES COULD HAVE SIMILAR EFFECT, OPERATING WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF MUTUALLY AGREED TIMETABLE FOR PRODUCTION BAN. WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS. IN REVIEWING

PROPOSAL DEPT. WILL WISH TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE
OF UN-LED PRODUCTION TEAM. ALTHOUGH GOP HAS INVITED
UN TO SEND A TEAM, OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH UN OFFICIALS HERE
AND RECENT REPORTING FROM GENEVA SUGGEST THAT PRACTICALLY
SPEAKING MAJOR UN INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS PICTURE
IN PAKISTAN IS STILL IN INDEFINITE FUTURE.
SANDERHOFF

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